

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 L-03 OIC-04 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11

NEA-10 RSC-01 COA-02 EB-11 TRSE-00 ACDA-19 AEC-11

AGR-20 CG-00 COME-00 DOTE-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00

NSF-04 OMB-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01

SS-15 /224 R

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EA/RA:LMCNUTT

L/OA:HDCAMITTA

D/LOS:JNMOORE

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O R 102249Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 179667

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, UN, UR

SUBJECT: LOS: 28TH UNGA CONSIDERATION OF LOS CONFERENCE

REF: A) MOSCOW 10648

B) USUN 2992

C) STATE 140586

1. IN SEPT 11 DISCUSSIONS WITH MFA ON ISSUES AT 28TH UNGA,

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EMBASSY SHOULD RAISE QUESTION OF SOVIET ATTITUDE ON LOS

CONFERENCE TIMING. DURING RECENT UN SEABED COMMITTEE MEETING IN GENEVA, SOVIET DEL GAVE INDICATION THAT USSR MAY NOT WANT TO HOLD TO PRESENT CONFERENCE SCHEDULE, CITING INADEQUACY OF PREPARATORY WORK. SOVIETS WERE ALONE IN TAKING THIS ATTITUDE, ALTHOUGH SOME OTHER DELEGATIONS SUBSEQUENTLY RAISED IDEA OF SLIGHT DELAY OF SANTIAGO MEETING (PERHAPS TO SUMMER 1974) TO ALLOW FOR FURTHER PREPARATIONS. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HAVING SOVIET THOUGHTS ON CONFERENCE SCHEDULE.

2. IF EMBASSY ASKED ABOUT US ATTITUDE, YOU SHOW DRAW ON FOLLOWING EXCERPT FROM AMBASSADOR STEVENSON S AUGUST 22 SPEECH TO THE SEABED COMMITTEE: "...WE BELIEVE THAT THE GREAT MAJORITY OF DELEGATIONS, ALTHOUGH REFLECTING MANY SHADES OF OPINION, ARE COMMITTED TO A TIMELY CONFERENCE AND DO NOT SHRINK FROM THE CHALLENGE OF ACCOMMODATING EACH OTHER S INTERESTS. CERTAINLY, WE SHOULD GO TO SANTIAGO AS WELL PREPARED AS POSSIBLE. BUT ADDITIONAL PREPARATION BEFORE SANTIAGO IS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH ADHERENCE TO THE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE, AND SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO DIVERT US FROM THE BASIC OBJECTIVE OF A TIMELY AND SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE. THE EXPERIENCE OF THIS FINAL PREPARATORY SESSION OF THE SEABEDS COMMITTEE WOULD SUGGEST THAT UNTIL THE CONFERENCE ITSELF IS ACTUALLY UNDERWAY MANY STATES WILL POSTPONE THOSE HARD DECISIONS ON OCEANS POLICY WHICH CAN ALONE AFFORD THE BASIS FOR EFFECTIVE NEGOTIATIONS AS WELL AS THE POLITICAL DIRECTION FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE TECHNICAL WORK OF DRAFTING TREATY ARTICLES. POSTPONING THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE CONFERENCE, EVEN FOR A FEW MONTHS, MIGHT NOT ONLY DELAY THE COMMENCEMENT OF EFFECTIVE NEGOTIATIONS BUT JEOPARDIZE THEIR SUCCESS..."

3. DEPT ALSO INTERESTED IN CURRENT MFA READING ON QUESTION OF INVITATION FORMULA FOR LOS CONFERENCE (SEE USUN 2992 AND PREVIOUS). IF SOVIETS SOLICIT US VIEWS, YOU SHOULD PASS ON OUR SUPPORT FOR "STATES MEMBER" (VIENNA) FORMULA PLUS DRV (REF C), NOTING THAT IT AVOIDS SADDLING UN SECRETARIAT WITH IMPOSSIBLE TASK OF DEFINING WHAT CONSTITUTES A STATE.
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4. EMBASSY SHOULD ALSO EMPHASIZE NEED FOR CONTINUING AND CLOSE CONSULTATION ON HANDLING LOS ITEM IN UNGA, IN ADDITION TO CONTACT ON SUBSTANTIVE LOS MATTERS. RUSH

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